Bird Netting in Dubai: 7 Questions Worth Asking Before You Install It

Bird netting is usually the option people land on after something smaller has already failed — a one-off clean, a single deterrent, maybe a neighbour's leftover spike strip that didn't cover the whole ledge. Before you book a full installation, these are the questions that actually decide whether netting is the right call, answered directly.

1. How Do I Know If I Need Netting Instead of Spikes or Wire?

It comes down to what you're protecting and how birds are using the space. Spikes stop birds landing along an edge or ledge. Wire works the same way but stays closer to invisible — useful on facades and signage. Netting is the only one of the three that physically blocks birds from entering a space at all, which matters when the problem isn't just "birds landing here" but "birds getting in here."

If your situation is...	Best starting option
A few pigeons landing on a balcony rail or AC unit	Bird spikes
Pigeons getting onto or into a full balcony, courtyard, or open terrace	Bird netting
A facade, sign, or architectural feature where appearance matters most	Bird wire
A rooftop with multiple ledges, vents, and equipment	Often a mix of netting and spikes

If you're not sure which column you fall into, that's a normal thing to figure out during a free inspection rather than guess at from a balcony.

2. What Mesh Size Do I Actually Need?

This is the detail most people skip past, and it's the reason some netting jobs don't fully solve the problem. Mesh that's too large for the bird species defeats the purpose — sparrows and mynas can slip through a mesh sized for pigeons. Mesh that's too small for the situation is unnecessary cost.

As a general guide: 19mm mesh is sized for smaller birds like sparrows and mynas, 25mm is the standard for pigeons (the most common issue on Dubai balconies and rooftops), and 50mm is reserved for larger birds like seagulls or crows on coastal or industrial properties. Getting this wrong in either direction is the most common reason a netting job underperforms.

3. Will the Netting Trap Pigeons That Are Already on My Balcony?

This is one of the most common worries, and it's a fair one. Properly sequenced installation accounts for it: the area is checked for birds currently present before the netting goes up, not after. If pigeons are actively using the space when you call, that gets addressed as part of the installation plan rather than left as an afterthought.

4. What Happens to Existing Nests Before Netting Goes Up?

If there's an active nest with eggs or chicks, responsible practice is to wait until the young birds have left naturally before sealing the area, rather than disturbing or removing an active nest. This isn't just a courtesy — it's standard professional practice in humane bird control, and it's worth asking about directly when you book an inspection so the timeline accounts for it if it applies to your property.

5. Do I Need Building Management Approval to Install Netting in Dubai?

For your own balcony or unit, installation is usually straightforward. For shared building elements — full facades, common rooftops, building-wide installations — it's worth checking with your building management or owners' association first, since work affecting common property typically needs their sign-off before installation can go ahead. This is worth raising early rather than after a quote is finalised.

6. How Long Does Bird Netting Installation Take?

A single balcony is usually a same-day job. Larger jobs — full rooftops, multi-story facades, or properties with several separate areas — can take longer and may need scaffolding or rope access, which adds planning time before installation day rather than during it. The clearest way to get a realistic timeline is a site visit, since access and structural assessment are part of planning any larger netting project.

7. Is Netting Overkill If I Only Have a Few Pigeons?

Not necessarily overkill, but not always the first thing to reach for either. If the issue is limited to birds landing on a rail, ledge, or unit top, bird spikes usually solve it for less cost and disruption. Netting earns its place when birds are entering an open space rather than just landing on its edges — a fully open balcony, a courtyard, or a terrace they can fly into and sit inside. If you're not sure which describes your situation, it's a five-minute question to answer during an inspection rather than something to guess at upfront.

Get a Straight Answer for Your Property

Every balcony, rooftop, and facade is a slightly different shape, which is exactly why a quick inspection beats guessing from a product description. Contact The Bird Control Dubai for a free assessment, call +971 586209 991, or message us on WhatsApp — we'll tell you honestly whether netting, spikes, wire, or a combination fits your situation best.